



NOAA
FISHERIES
SEFSC

Stock Assessment Program Review

The Peer Review Process

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Peer Review

One of the most straight-forward topics we'll be covering

The gist

- We know what we're supposed to be doing
- We're doing it
- But, could we be doing it more efficiently?

What should we be doing?



Stock Assessment Peer Reviews should be:

- Transparent
- Inclusive
- Unbiased
- Independent
- Not duplicative

National Standard 2

- *Transparent*
- *Inclusive*
- *Unbiased*
- *Independent*
- *Not duplicative*

No surprises – What we'd expect

What are we doing?



In practice – Benchmark assessment

Peer Review Workshop

- Transparent: Well documented input and output
- Inclusive: Highly accessible
- Unbiased: Assessment scientists not on review team
- Independent: 3 CIE reviewers

Center for Independent Experts (CIE)

- Internationally recognized experts
- Began in 1998
- Organized by a contractor
- Started with just stock assessment reviews but has expanded to reviews involving endangered species, marine mammals, and more

In practice – Benchmark assessment

- Not duplicative:
 - SSC reviews assessment and peer review in order to set ABCs.
 - Relies on its members who've been part of the process.
- Potential for duplication: possibly but allowed in NS2.

In practice – Update assessment

SSC Review (only)

- Transparent: Well documented input and output
- Inclusive: Highly accessible
- Unbiased: Assessment scientists not on review team
- Independent: ~~3 CIE Reviewers~~
- Not duplicative by definition

Could we be doing it better?



Efficiency

- Cost to Benefit Analysis
- Optimize effectiveness
 - Meet NS2 guidelines
 - Maximize resources (time, personnel, costs)



Efficiency

- Average of 2.4 SEDARs per calendar year since 2007.
- Cost averages \$10k to \$20k per SEDAR to the SEDAR entity. Federal agency costs are in addition.
- Much of this is travel. Given the size of our region, costs are likely higher than most.



Review: Stock-specific vs. General methods?

Benchmarks

- Review top to bottom
 - Data
 - Analyses
 - Assumptions
 - Assessment methods
 - Etc.



Assessment vs. Methods

- Many of the same methods are reviewed multiple times.
- Many of the applications of methods / assumptions are unique to individual stocks / situation.
- Is there a better way to balance methods that need to be reviewed once with unique aspects that need to be handled on a stock by stock basis?



Proposed: Methods Working Group

- A process to peer review methods that would be used in multiple assessments.
- Data analysis, abundance indices, assessment models, etc.
- Once approved, method would not need to be reviewed for each individual assessment.



How much peer review is too much?

- What qualifies as a benchmark vs. update?
 - Peer review workshop vs. SSC review

Continuum



Benchmark

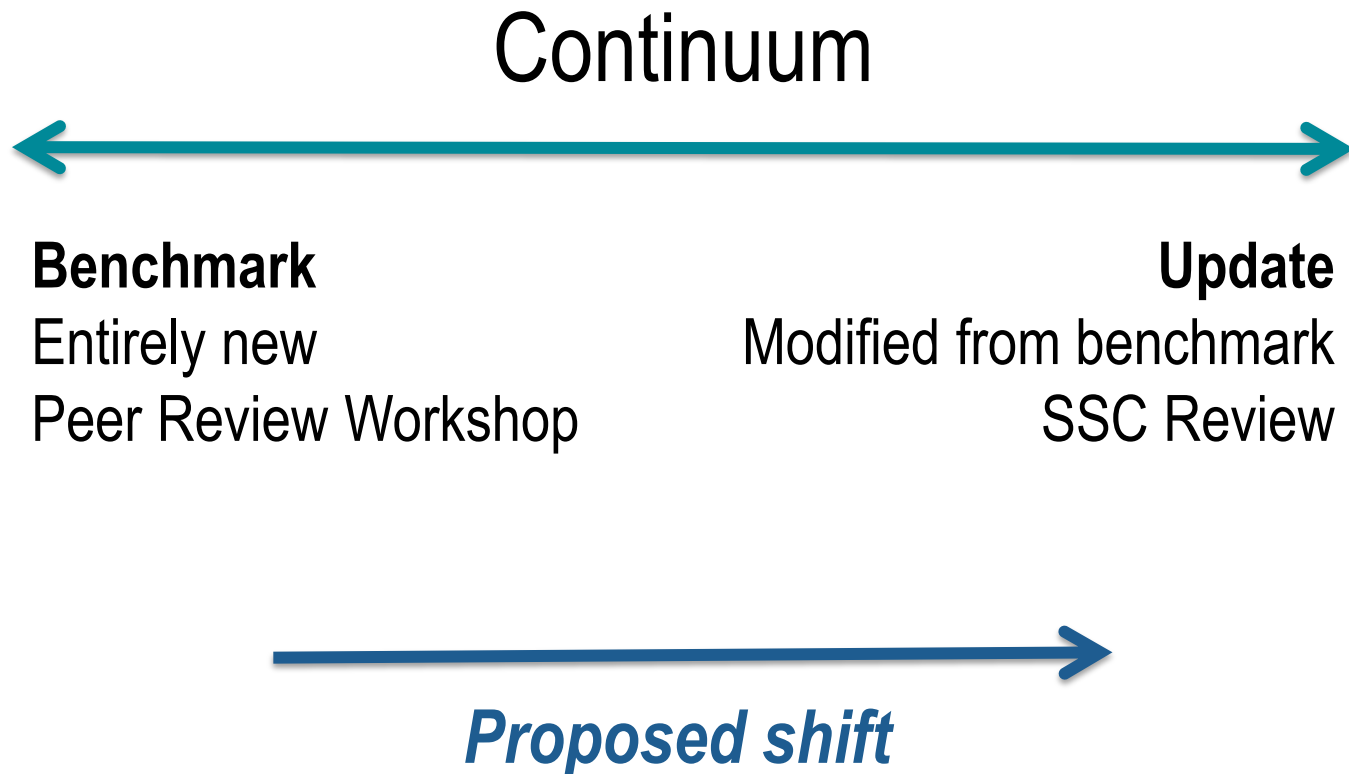
Entirely new or major reworking
Peer Review Workshop

Update

Data updated only
SSC Review



Proposed: Shift to more updates



What level of independent review?

- How many peer reviewers are needed?
 - CIE members



Proposed: CIE desk review

- Assessments sent to 1-3 CIE reviewers.
- CIE reviewers write up comments regarding assessments and submit them to the SSC.
- The SSC formally reviews assessment using CIE reviews as input.

Summary – Peer Review

- The requirements are clear.
- We're meeting them.
- Can we accomplish peer reviews more efficiently?
 - Proposals
 - Methods Working Group
 - Shift towards updates
 - CIE desk reviews
 - Others?



Questions

